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REQUEST FOR THE INCLUSION OF AN ITEM IN THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA OF THE FORTY-EIGHTH SESSION

OBSERVER STATUS FOR THE ECONOMIC COOPERATION ORGANIZATION IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Letter dated 8 April 1993 from the representatives of the Permanent Missions of Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Islamic Republic of Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to address Your Excellency, upon instructions from our Governments, which are members of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), to request, in accordance with rule 13 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the inclusion in the provisional agenda of the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly of an item entitled "Observer status for the Economic Cooperation Organization in the General Assembly".

In accordance with rule 20 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, an explanatory memorandum concerning the request is annexed to this letter.

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Ambassador and Chargé d'affaires a.i.
of the Islamic State of Afghanistan
to the United Nations

(Signed) Hassan Aziz Ogly HASSANOV
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(Signed) Gholamali KHOSHROO
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(Signed) Jamsheed K. A. MARKER
Ambassador and Permanent Representative
of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan
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(Signed) Lakim KAYUMOV
Ambassador and Permanent Representative
of the Republic of Tajikistan
to the United Nations

(Signed) Mustafa AKSIN
Ambassador and Permanent Representative
of Turkey to the United Nations

(Signed) Amangeldy RAKHMANOV
Ambassador and Permanent Representative
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of Uzbekistan to the United Nations

ANNEX

Explanatory memorandum

The Islamic Republic of Iran, Pakistan and Turkey, in a summit meeting held in 1964, decided to set up a regional organization for economic development. This decision was later formalized in the form of the Treaty of Izmir, which was, in turn, amended in 1990 to change the name from Regional Cooperation for Development to the Economic Cooperation Organization. Recently, in a meeting of the Council of Ministers of the Organization, held at Islamabad on 28 November 1992, the States of Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan formally acceded to the Treaty of Izmir. The Republic of Tajikistan has since become a member of the Economic Cooperation Organization. Thus, the Organization now has 10 members.

The Economic Cooperation Organization has the following as its objectives:

(a) To expand trade among member States by providing free access to each other's market;

(b) To promote in each member State conditions for sustained economic growth in order to achieve continuous improvement in the standard of living of the people;

(c) To consolidate cultural affinities and spiritual and fraternal ties that bind the people of the member States through social and cultural channels of thought and action; and

(d) To contribute to the growth of world trade and to strive to remove iniquitous trading policies resulting in adverse terms of trade for the developing countries, by evolving a common approach in international forums.

As a regional organization representing 10 members, the member States of the Economic Cooperation Organization are convinced that their organization will benefit greatly by having an observer relationship with the United Nations and will also make a positive collective contribution to the activities of the United Nations.

Accordingly, the Economic Cooperation Organization requests that it be granted observer status to the General Assembly of the United Nations on terms similar to those that have been prescribed in respect of other regional associations of States.